Indians End Historic Sun Dance

A tradition which harks back to the era when Utah was a wide expanse of pairie land known only to Indians—the annual four-day sun dance of Ute Indians from the Uintah-Ouray reservanight at the picturesque sun dance grounds near Whiterocks.

The ancient religious rite— conducted with all the splendor and colorful regalia of a forgotten era—began Friday at sundown and concluded late Monday as thousands of tourists and residents of near-by communities witnessed one of the few remaining Indian ceremonial functions.

Dressed in traditional Indian garb, the tribesmen danced from early morning until late in the night each day of the event. Exact significance of the ceremony is not known, although it is known to be of a religious nature dating back to events of untold years ago.

The affair annually attracts thousands of onlookers.